

6

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/691,059	MILES, RONALD	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Suhan Ni	2643	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**  
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

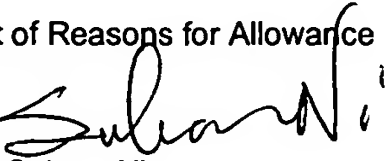
- 1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed 10/22/2003.
  - 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
  - 3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
  - 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- 5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  - 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

  
Suhan Ni  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2643

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed 10/22/2003.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

The present invention is directed to diaphragm segments for a miniature microphone. All cited prior art teach diaphragm segments for a miniature microphone, comprising at least a pair of substantially rigid diaphragm segments each having two opposing surfaces and two opposing edges, said opposing edges being substantially parallel to one another. But the prior art fails to teach of at least one of said two opposing edges of each of said at least a pair of diaphragm segments defining a **hinge edge**, each of said at least a pair of diaphragm segments being disposed adjacent one another with one of said at least one hinge edge thereof being aligned proximate and substantially parallel to said at least one hinge edge of another of said at least a pair of diaphragm segments; a **first hinge** fixedly attached to each adjacent one of said at least one hinge edge of each adjacent pair of said at least a pair of diaphragm segments disposed to flexibly join adjacent ones of said at least one hinge edges; a **second hinge** located beneath a lower one of said two opposing faces and positioned substantially centrally thereupon and substantially parallel to each of said two hinge edges as claimed. Those distinct features have been included to the sole independent claims and render the application to be allowable.

***Conclusion***

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment on the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the

Art Unit: 2643

Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

4. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

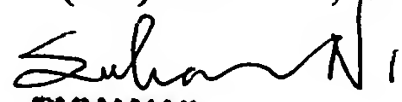
Or faxed to:

**(703) 308-9051**, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED  
PROCEDURE"), or  
**(703) 305-9508**, (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suhan Ni whose telephone number is (571)-272-7505, and the number for fax machine is (571)-273-7505. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, and may be reached on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. If it is necessary, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached at (571)-272-7499.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (**PAIR**) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov/>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (571)-272-2600, or please see <http://www.uspto.gov/web/info/2600>.

  
**SUHAN NI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**